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**(54) Title: CRYSTALLINE METHANESULFONIC ACID ADDITION SALTS OF IMATINIB**

**(57) Abstract:** The invention relates to the methanesulfonic acid addition salts of Imatinib and to the processes for their preparation. In particular, the invention relates to the process for the preparation of Imatinib methanesulfonate a-crystal form. Furthermore, the invention is directed to a novel acid addition salt of 4- (4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N- [4-methyl-3-[(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino] phenyl] benzamide with two molecules of methanesulfonic acid and the polymorphic forms thereof as well as their pharmaceutical compositions.